

**Announcement of Meeting  
City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Patrick Baustian, Council Member Caroline Thorson, Council Member Kevin Aaker, Council Member Dan Nath, and Council Member Marlin Kracht

**Additional :** Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jessica Mead, Jill Wolf, and Tyler Reisch

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND SPECIAL ORDERS**

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Aaker, that the Agenda and Special Orders be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING(S)**

**D.1. [2025-115](#)** City Council Minutes from March 25, 2025.

A motion was made by Council Member Nath, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**E. RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S)**

Chad McClure, Dylan Stoakes, Doug Bos, Carol Morgan, Terry Grey, and Lori Sorenson.

**F. PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS**

**F.1. [2025-112](#)** Blue Mound Area Theatre Board Minutes from February 13 and March 13, 2025.

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Nath, that this Other Boards and Commission Minutes be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**G. STAFF AND CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**G.1. [2025-116](#)** City Administrator Report.

Public Works is currently grinding 100 stumps and preparing Redbird Field for the season. Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for the

week of April 21, with the detailed schedule available on the website. Appliance and mattress pick-up will take place April 25, with appliance pick-up costing \$15 each and mattress pick-up costing \$30 each. Citizens must register and pay the fee at City Offices before that Friday. Please wait to set spring clean-up items on the curb until one week prior to pick-up. Items not included in the pick-up are tires, chemicals, electronics, batteries, and light bulbs. Branch pick-up will occur the week of April 28, along with the planting of 100 trees. The Water Department is potholing on Freeman Street (from Barck to Main Street) and will begin PFAS testing soon, including testing in sanitary sewers and sampling land application sludge. The Electric Department has installed a new civil defense siren, replacing the old one on West Warren, and conducted a two-hour generation test last Thursday as part of a new monthly practice.

## **H. FINANCE AND BUDGET**

- H.1. [2025-119](#) First Claim Report for April 2025 (Check No. 164415-164504) for \$1,053,186.58.

A motion was made by Council Member Aaker, seconded by Council Member Thorson, that this Claim Report be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- H.2. [2025-114](#) Application and Certificate for Payment No. 15 - Final for \$34,797.11 to Hoogendoorn Construction RE: Luverne Aquatics and Fitness Center Expansion and Remodel Project.

The City of Luverne has successfully completed the expansion and remodel of the Luverne Aquatics and Fitness Center, which included the addition of an outdoor splash pad and 24-hour fitness access. The project has significantly enhanced the community's recreational and fitness amenities. With the contractor's final paperwork now submitted, the final payment is due to officially close out the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Nath, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that this Motion be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

## **I. PERSONNEL**

- I.1. No items under personnel to consider.

## **J. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

- J.1. [10-25](#) PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
MINNESOTA WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

The Rock County Land Management Office is requesting cities in Rock County to adopt a resolution allowing the Rock Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to continue administering the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within city boundaries, following a review by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that found the original designation did not explicitly include city areas. The proposed resolution delegates the authority and administrative responsibility to implement the WCA within the legal boundaries of the City of Luverne to the Rock SWCD. This resolution supersedes a previous resolution from 1993 and requires notification to BWSR, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Soil and Water Conservation District within 15 business days of adoption. The resolution aims to ensure compliance with WCA regulations and maintain effective wetland conservation management.

A motion was made by Council Member Thorson, seconded by Council Member Kracht, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**J.2. [47](#)**

Proposed Ordinance, Fourth Series  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 153.  
ZONING, AND ADDING SECTIONS, 153.200 and 153.210 TO  
REGULATE CANNABIS BUSINESSES

This draft ordinance for the City of Luverne amends City Code Chapter 153 to regulate zoning for cannabis businesses by adding Sections 153.200 and 153.210. It defines various types of cannabis businesses, establishes a 1,000-foot buffer zone from schools, 500-foot buffer zone for retail cannabis businesses from parks and athletic fields and specifies zoning districts where different cannabis activities are permitted as Conditional Uses. The zoning is applied based on the existing land use, ensuring that cannabis businesses are integrated into appropriate industrial, commercial, and retail zones. The ordinance aims to ensure compliance with state laws and local zoning requirements while regulating the cannabis industry. The Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) oversees the licensing and regulation of cannabis businesses, including microbusinesses, cultivators, manufacturers, retailers, and more. A public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 7, 2025.

Nath gave a short report of the public hearing and Planning Commission meeting held last night; a 500 foot buffer was implemented around parks and athletic fields. Planning Commission recommended approval by the City Council.

**Aye:** Caroline Thorson, Kevin Aaker, Dan Nath, and Marlin Kracht

**J.3. [48](#)**

Proposed Ordinance, Fourth Series

## AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVERNE TO REGULATE CANNABIS BUSINESSES

This proposed ordinance aims to regulate cannabis businesses within the City of Luverne, ensuring compliance with Minnesota Statutes and promoting public health, safety, and welfare. The ordinance is based on Minnesota Statutes, including M.S. § 342.13(c) for local government authority, M.S. § 342.22 for local registration and enforcement, M.S. § 152.0263 for public use restrictions, and M.S. § 462.357 for zoning ordinances. It requires cannabis retail businesses to register with the Office of the City Administrator before operating, with a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for selling without valid registration. The application process includes detailed requirements such as owner information, business plans, proof of state licensing, and compliance with local zoning, fire, and building codes. Annual compliance checks and unannounced age verification checks are mandated, and violations can lead to suspension of registration, with a detailed process for notification and hearings. The ordinance also sets operational restrictions, including specific hours of operation and buffer requirements, such as a 1,000-foot buffer from other cannabis retail businesses. On-site consumption is regulated, with distinct rules for microbusinesses and lower-potency hemp edible retailers. Additionally, a license is required for organizing up to 12 temporary cannabis events per year, with specific application and operational requirements. The City of Luverne may also establish and operate one municipal cannabis retail business, subject to City Council approval. Public use of cannabis is generally prohibited unless allowed by a specific permit. This ordinance is designed to ensure that cannabis businesses operate within a structured and regulated framework, promoting safety and compliance with state laws.

After considerable discussion regarding Section 118.29 and the intent to provide future Council and Administration public steps to initiating . A motion was made by Council Member Aaker, seconded by Council Member Thorson, that this Ordinance be introduced and adopted by adding "by Ordinance" in Section 118.29. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Caroline Thorson, Kevin Aaker, Dan Nath, and Marlin Kracht

### **K. MOTIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

- K.1. [2025-111](#)** Private Use of Public Right-of-Way Request for the Luverne Area Chamber on June 8, 2025 at the Luverne City Park

Jane Lanphere has submitted an application to host Woofstock at the City Park on Sunday, June 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This

event, for dogs and their owners, will include vendors, food trucks, educational events, and a doggie parade. They will require all dogs to be leashed and will police the area for dog poop.

A motion was made by Council Member Kracht, seconded by Council Member Nath, that this Motion be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**L. COUNCIL REQUESTS - GENERAL DISCUSSION**

League of Minnesota Cities Summer conference information was distributed. Wolf attended the International City Managers Association (ICMA) conference. Wolf was one of only 40 City Administrators nationwide to be nominated and accepted into a prestigious year-long course through ICMA. This comprehensive program covers a wide range of topics and culminates in a capstone project, providing an exceptional opportunity for professional development and leadership growth.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Aaker, seconded by Council Member Thorson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Jessica Mead, City Clerk

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Patrick T. Baustian, Mayor